

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D. C.**



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August 17, 1955

Mr. Allen W. Dulles  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

In Congressman Durham's absence from the office, I am writing to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of August thirteenth. Mr. Durham will return to Washington next Tuesday from Geneva, and at that time your letter will be called to his attention. I am sure he will appreciate its contents.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Margaret W. Graves*  
Margaret W. Graves  
Secretary

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AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 1 MAY 1981 REVIEWER

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13 August 1955

The Honorable Carl T. Durham  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Durham:

In connection with the search for the best site for the new headquarters installation for the Central Intelligence Agency we have surveyed over 30 properties, both Government and privately owned. Many people wrote in suggesting that they had property available, and we considered those in each instance. One of our basic criteria was the need to be within 10 miles or 20 minutes driving time from the White House. Therefore we did not consider the school at Olney as this was outside of our proposed radius. It is my understanding that the Olney school site is privately owned and is leased by the Government until 1956. We have had no indication that the owner or his agent wished to submit this property for our consideration.

I deeply appreciate your expression of pride in the development of CIA, and your more than kind comments concerning all of us here. I hope we will never give you any reason to think otherwise. We are trying every day to make a better record because we feel, in our business, that we can never level off -- we must always strive to get more and better intelligence.

I hope that when you come back from Geneva you will be passing through Washington and can stop and have lunch with us. It will give us an opportunity to bring you up to date on some of the things we are doing.

With kindest regards.

OGC:WLP/blc (1 Aug. 55)

Orig. & 1 - Add

2 - Signer

2 - Legislative Counsel

1 - DD/S

1 - Dir. of Logistics w/basic

Sincerely,

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Allen W. Dulles  
Director

CONCUR:

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Deputy Director/Support

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

Mr. Durham is Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy as well as a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee. He has advised me by telephone that the "Arlington school" site to which he refers in his letter was a mistake and that he was referring to the site in Olney, Maryland which until recently was used by the Federal Civil Defense organization as a training school.

Walter P. [redacted]  
Legislative Counsel

29 July 1955  
(DATE)

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